IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

monitoring a plurality of application tiers, wherein said monitoring includes tracking one or more attributes associated with each of the application tiers, wherein the application tiers execute on one or more server computers, wherein said monitoring is performed by agent software executing on each of the one or more server computers;

displaying a plurality of objects each corresponding to a respective one of the application tiers;

in response to detecting a change in the one or more attributes associated with a given application tier, altering the appearance of the corresponding object to reflect said change.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of objects includes a core object and one or more indicators in proximity to the core object.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said altering comprises altering the appearance of the one or more indicators.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said altering further comprises altering the color of the one or more indicators.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said altering further comprises coloring the one or more indicators blue for a no-alert status, coloring the indicators yellow for a near-critical alert status, and coloring the indicators red for a critical alert status.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more indicators are arranged around the displayed object.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein each of the plurality of indicators corresponds to a different attribute of the application tier.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the monitored attributes include performance trending, current performance, current load, load trending, service, maintenance, and a custom aspect.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the one or more of objects is connected by a directional arrow, wherein the directional arrow represents the data flow between the plurality of application tiers.

10.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
    one or more server computer systems executing a plurality of application tiers;
    a memory medium that stores a performance management system, wherein the performance management system comprises operable to:
        one or more agent software programs that are executable to monitor a plurality of application tiers, wherein said monitoring includes tracking one or more attributes associated with each of the application tiers, wherein the one or more agent software programs execute on the one or more server computer systems;
        a console program executable to display a plurality of objects each corresponding to a respective one of the application tiers;
        wherein, in response to detecting a change in the one or more attributes associated with a given application tier, the console program is executable to alter the appearance of the corresponding object to reflect said change.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of objects includes a core object and one or more indicators in proximity to the core object.

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12.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein ~~said performance management system~~ the console program is operable to alter the appearance of the one or more indicators.

13.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~said performance management system~~ the console program is further operable to alter the color of the one or more indicators.

14.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein ~~said performance management system~~ the console program is further operable to color the one or more indicators blue for a no-alert status, color the indicators yellow for a near-critical alert status, and color the indicators red for a critical alert status.

15.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the one or more indicators are arranged around the displayed object.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of indicators corresponds to a different attribute of the application tier.

17.   (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the monitored attributes include performance trending, current performance, current load, load trending, service, maintenance, and a custom aspect.

18.   (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein each of the one or more of objects is connected by a directional arrow, wherein the directional arrow represents the data flow between the plurality of application tiers.

19.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium including program instructions executable by a processor to implement a method comprising:

monitoring a plurality of application tiers, wherein said monitoring includes tracking one or more attributes associated with each of the application tiers, wherein the application tiers execute on one or more server computers, wherein said monitoring is performed by agent software executing on each of the one or more server computers;

displaying a plurality of objects each corresponding to a respective one of the application tiers;

in response to detecting a change in the one or more attributes associated with a given application tier, altering the appearance of the corresponding object to reflect said change.

20.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of objects includes a core object and one or more indicators in proximity to the core object.

21.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein said altering comprises altering the appearance of the one or more indicators.

22.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein said altering further comprises altering the color of the one or more indicators.

23.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said altering further comprises coloring the one or more indicators blue for a no-alert status, coloring the indicators yellow for a near-critical alert status, and coloring the indicators red for a critical alert status.

24.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the one or more indicators are arranged around the displayed object.

25.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein each of the plurality of indicators corresponds to a different attribute of the application tier.

26.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the monitored attributes include performance trending, current performance, current load, load trending, service, maintenance, and a custom aspect.

27.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein each of the one or more of objects is connected by a directional arrow, wherein the directional arrow represents the data flow between the plurality of application tiers.

28.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

    means for monitoring a plurality of application tiers, wherein said monitoring includes tracking one or more attributes associated with each of the application tiers, wherein the application tiers execute on one or more server computers, wherein said monitoring is performed by agent software executing on each of the one or more server computers;

    means for displaying a plurality of objects each corresponding to a respective one of the application tiers;

    means for altering the appearance of the corresponding object to reflect a change in the one or more attributes associated with a given application tier change, in response to detecting said change.

29.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the application tiers comprise one or more of a database software application, a storage software application or a web service software application.

30.   (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said monitoring comprises determining a performance view across a plurality of the application tiers.

31.   (New) The method of claim 29,

wherein said monitoring comprises measuring segmented response times between at least two application tiers to determine a location of performance problems in a respective application tier.

32.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises:

a first agent module executing on a database server tracking one or more attributes associated with a database application executing on the database server.

33.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises:

a first agent module executing on an application server tracking one or more attributes associated with a first application executing on the application server.

34.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises:

a first agent module executing on a storage server tracking one or more attributes associated with a storage application executing on the application server.

35.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises:

a first agent module executing on a database server tracking one or more attributes associated with a database application executing on the database server;

a second agent module executing on an application server tracking one or more attributes associated with a user application executing on the application server; and

a third agent module executing on a storage server tracking one or more attributes associated with a storage application executing on the application server.

36.   (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the application tiers comprise two or more of a database software application, a storage software application or a web service software application.

37.   (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the one or more agent software programs comprise a first agent module executing on a database server tracking one or more attributes associated with a database application executing on the database server.

38.   (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the one or more agent software programs comprise a first agent module executing on an application server tracking one or more attributes associated with a first application executing on the application server.

39.   (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the one or more agent software programs comprise a first agent module executing on a storage server tracking one or more attributes associated with a storage application executing on the application server.

40.   (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the application tiers comprise one or more of a database software application, a storage software application or a web service software application.